



**BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING/
2002 WRP SYMPOSIUM OPENING SESSION**

Thursday, October 17, 2002
Ventura Holiday Inn
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Please note: The next WRP Governing Board meeting will be held as the opening session of the 2002 Wetlands Recovery Project Symposium.

AGENDA

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| I. | Welcome and Introductions (California Resources Secretary Mary Nichols) | 9:30-9:50 |
| II. | Recovering Wetlands: Where have we been and where are we going?
(Paul Michel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Chair of Wetlands Managers Group) | 9:50-10:10 |
| III. | Initiatives to Improve Regional Planning (Eric Stein, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, Member of Science Advisory Panel) | 10:10-11:10 |

In May 2002, the WRP Science Advisory Panel (SAP) released its first position paper on *Improving Regional Planning of Wetland Ecosystem Restoration and Management in Southern California*.¹ This paper recommends that the WRP implement the following three major initiatives to improve regional planning and outlines specific actions for pursuing each initiative:

- Establish more specific recovery objectives
- Develop decision support needs and tools
- Implement a regional monitoring program

The Board will be asked to provide policy direction on key issues related to these initiatives. These issues are outlined in the attached joint report from Science Advisory Panel and Wetlands Managers Group.

¹ Included in meeting packet for Governing Board members. Also available at <http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp>.

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| IV. WRP Highlights | 11:10-11:55 |
| A. Restoring the Ormond Beach Wetlands (Peter Brand, Coastal Conservancy) | 11:10-11:25 |
| <p>The Ormond Beach wetlands exemplify the plight of coastal wetlands throughout Southern California. Bordered on the north by the slag heap of an aluminum recycling facility, on the east by the ferocious clanging of an iron forge, and punctured in the middle by a power plant, the severely degraded wetlands at Ormond Beach still provide habitat for 200 species of resident and migratory birds. Approximately 900 acres of surrounding open space and agriculture lands provide the opportunity to more than double the current wetland acreage and also create a substantial grassland buffer. In June 2002, the Coastal Conservancy acquired approximately 265 acres of the Ormond Beach wetlands. While continuing negotiations for additional acreage, the Conservancy is initiating the restoration planning which will present many difficult challenges for the Conservancy and WRP partner agencies.</p> | |
| B. WRP Education Programs
(Brenda Freshman, Nature Trust of the Santa Monica Mountains, and Bobby Cochran, Summit to Sea, Sujatha Jahagirdar, CalPIRG, member of Public Advisory Committee) | 11:25-11:40 |
| <p>The fifth goal of the WRP Regional Strategy is to “promote education and compatible access related to coastal wetlands and watersheds.” The Public Advisory Committee and County Task Forces are leading the WRP’s efforts on wetlands and watershed education.</p> | |
| C. Watershed Coordinators Program
(Bob Thiel, Community Environmental Council, Santa Barbara Watershed Coordinator and Task Force Co-Chair) | 11:40-11:55 |
| <p>The State Water Resources Control Board has provided a grant allowing the WRP to fund a watershed coordinator in each of the five coastal counties. In cooperation with the County Task Forces, these coordinators are working with WRP partners to improve watershed management, planning, and implementation.</p> | |
| V. Overview of Symposium Sessions and Schedule (Doug Gibson, San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, Co-chair of the San Diego County Task Force) | 11:55-12:00 |

Board Packet:

1. WMG/SAP report on three initiatives proposed by SAP (Agenda Item III)
2. PAC report on WRP Education Program (Agenda Item IV, B)
3. PAC report on Watershed Coordinators Program (Agenda Item IV, C)
4. Project Update Report
5. Science Advisory Panel Update
6. SAP Position Paper (Agenda Item III)